

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group III, claims 19-33, drawn to a method of securing a plurality of ceramic elements. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement.

Claim 19, representative of elected Group III, is directed to a method of securing ceramic elements using a band of adhered material formed of entrained particles. Claim 34, representative of Group IV, recites a method of forming a non-thermal plasma reactor that includes steps similar to claim 19. Thus, prior art relating to the method for forming a non-thermal plasma reactor would also be relevant to claim 19, so that the inventions are closely related and should properly be considered together.

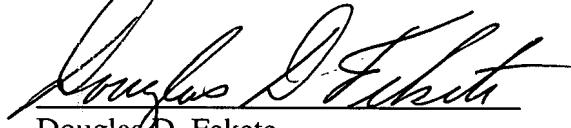
Claim 1, representative of Group I, calls for ceramic elements secured by a band of kinetic spray applied material, which is produced by the method of Group III. Claim 12, representative of Group II, recites a non-thermal plasma reactor that includes ceramic elements and a band of kinetic sprayed material. Thus, the Groups are closely related and should properly be considered together.

Thus, the inventions of the Groups are merely different aspects of but a single technical development. Moreover, prior art showing a method for forming a non-thermal plasma reactor would be material to, and should properly be considered in examining the claims to the method of securing a plurality of ceramic elements, as would art showing products produced thereby. Efficiency, both on the part of Applicants, and also on the part of the Patent Office, mandates that, where the claims have common distinctive features such as here, all claims should be examined together. The Restriction Requirement unduly burdens Applicants by requiring them to file and prosecute multiple applications, and pay fees and maintain multiple patents, to obtain the patent protection to which they are entitled.

Therefore, it is requested that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, and that the methods of Groups III and IV be considered together in the present application, along with the claims to the products of Groups I and II.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,



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